

SENATE BILL 2907
By Ketron

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 2,
Chapter 4, Part 1 and Title 2, Chapter 7, Part 1,
relative to election officials.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 2-4-108, is amended by adding the following language as a new subsection:

(d) The provisions of this subsection shall apply in all metropolitan areas having more than one hundred thousand (100,000) registered voters.

(1) Within thirty (30) days before each election there shall be held in each county to which this subsection applies, under the direction of the county election commission, a meeting for the purpose of instructing election officials as to their duties during an election. Such instructional material shall be standardized and developed by the state election coordinator. The material shall be job specific and designed to address the different functions and duties required to be performed by the various election officials.

(2) Election officials means the officers of elections, judges, voting machine operators, precinct and assistant precinct registrars, and inspectors appointed under this title.

(3) Each election official shall be issued a certificate indicating the official attended the meeting and successfully completed the training relating to the duties to be performed by each such official. Such certificate for each election official working at the polling place on election day shall be posted at a conspicuous place at the entrance to polling place. No election official shall be

permitted to work at the polling place unless a certificate has been issued to the election official.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 2-4-108(c), is amended by deleting the subsection in its entirety and by substituting instead the following language:

(c) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (a) and (b), the county election commission may limit attendance at instructional meetings to only those persons who are inexperienced or otherwise need such training; provided, that in all metropolitan areas having more than one hundred thousand (100,000) registered voters the provisions of subsection (d) shall control.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 2-7-105(b), is amended by deleting the subdivision in its entirety, and by substituting instead the following language:

(1)

(A) Except in metropolitan areas having more than one hundred thousand (100,000) registered voters, if any election official fails to appear at the polling place, the officer of elections or, in such officer's absence, a majority of the election officials attending, shall select other persons to fill the vacancies. The persons selected shall be registered voters of the county for which they are to serve. Any person selected to fill a vacancy shall be, to the extent practicable, of the same political party as the person in whose place such person was selected.

(B) In metropolitan areas having more than one hundred thousand (100,000) registered voters, if any election official fails to appear at the polling place, the officer of elections or, in such officer's absence, a majority of the election officials attending, shall select other persons to fill the vacancies who have completed the job specific training pursuant to § 2-4-108(d)(1) for the vacancy to be filled and the provisions of such subsection shall apply to each person selected to fill such a vacancy. The persons

selected shall be registered voters of the county for which they are to serve. Any person selected to fill a vacancy shall be, to the extent practicable, of the same political party as the person in whose place such person was selected.

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 2-7-106, is amended by deleting the section in its entirety and by substituting instead the following language:

(a) Except in metropolitan areas having more than one hundred thousand (100,000) registered voters, if the county election commission receives notice that no election officials are at the polling place, the commission shall promptly appoint new officials who shall conduct the election. Until the polling place is open for voting, any voter who is eligible to vote there may vote at the county election commission office; ballots cast under this sentence shall be counted by the county election commission.

(b) In metropolitan areas having more than one hundred thousand (100,000) registered voters, if the county election commission receives notice that no election officials are at the polling place, the commission shall promptly appoint new officials who have completed the job specific training pursuant to § 2-4-108(d)(1) for conducting an election, and such persons appointed shall conduct the election. The provisions of such subsection shall apply to each person appointed to conduct the election. Until the polling place is open for voting, any voter who is eligible to vote there may vote at the county election commission office; ballots cast under this sentence shall be counted by the county election commission.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.